

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

**MINUTES
TOWN OF DARIEN
SPECIAL MEETING**

March 8, 2004

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

A special meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held on March 8, 2004. First Selectwoman Evonne Klein called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Present were Selectmen Harrel, Miceli, Santarella and Thorne; and Town Counsel Wayne Fox and Administrative Officer John Crary.

A motion was made by Mr. Miceli to go into executive session to meet with the Town Counsel to discuss real estate matters and personnel. Seconded by Barbara Thorne and approved unanimously.

The Board returned to public session at 6:05 p.m.

1st SELECTWOMAN'S REPORT

Evonne Klein announced the following:

- receipt of a number of applications for the Tokeneke School Building Committee. The deadline for submissions to serve on the committee is 3/12.
- congratulated High School Principal, Dr. Jerry Auclair, after being named as the MetLife Principal of the Year
- Avalon now has 103 occupied units and 27 school age children
- she supports the construction of a bike path along the right of way of the Merritt Parkway
- she attended two fund raising events over the weekend for the turf field and the playground at Cherry Lawn. She commented on the large number of young families that she met at these events.
- need for a emergency director due to the resignation of John Jordan. She said that Sal Mazzeo will act as interim director.
- On Thursday March 11 she has scheduled a meeting with neighbors of Procaccini to discuss the potential acquisition by the Town
- she has received a number of phone calls on traffic control, speed bumps and support for the purchase of the Procaccini property

- she announced that the Planning & Zoning Department has been named as the department of the month for March

NEW BUSINESS

The SWRPA sponsored "Darien Norwalk Rail Station Parking Study" was discussed by the board members. Ms. Klein said that the study has been under way for the past three years. The drawings that were included with the agenda depict two possible parking structures at the Noroton Heights Railroad Station. Ms. Klein said that she did not support the parking structures but did agree with the idea of installing a second pedestrian bridge near the east end of the lot. Barbara Thorne said that she finds the study to be insulting in light of the survey recent results that were recently gathered on this subject. The other members of the Board agreed that there was no support for the ideas presented.

The Board discussed a draft letter on the existing downtown parking regulations. They agreed that the letter should be placed on the Board's agenda for March 15 for action.

OLD BUSINESS

The members of the Board continued their discussion of the offer of Avalon Bay to donate 12 acres to the Town of Darien. Discussion covered the lack of access to the site, the lack of parking and limitations that the conservation easement places on the property. It was agreed that with the exception of open space and passive recreation that the site does not have any other use. Jeremy Ginsberg pointed out that the 12 acres under discussion were required by Avalon Bay to achieve the unit count the Planning and Zoning approved for the site and could not be donated to the Town without reducing this number. Evonne Klein said that since the Town cannot build a building, fields or a pool and could not provide access to it if they were built that the Town should not spend any of our funds on this site. Cheryl Russell asked the Board members to keep an open mind on the possible use of the land.

A resolution authorizing the settlement of a workers compensation claim was presented and moved as follows:

WHEREAS, Ronald Bussell has filed a worker's compensation claim under the terms of the §7-433c of the Connecticut General Statutes, and

WHEREAS, under the terms of this act when a paid police officer suffers a condition resulting in death or his temporary or permanent, or total or partial disability, the condition is presumed to be work-related, and

WHEREAS, the Town's labor counsel has negotiated a settlement within the mandates of this state law, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen hereby authorizes the First Selectwoman to sign the proposed settlement providing for a payment of \$90,784.20 to Mr. Bussell, and be it further,

RESOLVED, that this agreement be referred to the Board of Finance to make the necessary monetary transfers to pay for this expense.

Moved by Linda Santarella and seconded by Barbara Thorne and approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one present had any comments.

Adjournment

On a motion made by Mrs. Thorne and seconded by Dr. Miceli, it was unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John N. Crary
Administrative Officer